Export of Sugar

*215. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 15 given in Rajya Sabha on 27th November, 1995 and state:

(a) the reasons for the export of sugar to keep its prices high; and

(b) the reasons for not allowing sugar prices to come down to a reasonable level?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Sugar production during the year 1994-95 was of the order of 145.85 lakh tonnes (provisional). The closing stock of sugar as on 1.10.1995, i.e. beginning of the new sugar season, was 55.77 lakh tonnes. The export allowed so far has been of the order of 5 lakh tonnes. There is thus more than sufficient quantity of sugar available to influence the open market sale of sugar, which is also allowed on a regulated basis and supplements the availability of sugar released through the Public Distribution System (PDS). The releases for open market sale of sugar are so modulated as to keep the sugar prices within reasonable limits taking into account the need for maintaining the viability of the industry and its obligation to make payment to the sugar cane farmers. The export of sugar also helps to strengthen viability of the industry and is instrumental in earning foreign exchange.

Drop In Off-Take of Rice from PDS in Kashmir

*216. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the off-take of rice from the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Kashmir has fallen by about 72 percent in just over three months; and

(b) if so, whether the quality of the rice supplied has been one of the reasons for the drop in demand?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The off-take of rice for the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Jammu & Kashmir from 1993 has been as follows:

Year	Off-take (In 000' Tonnes)	Average Monthly Off-take
1993 (Jan. to Dec.)	159.10	13.25
1994 (Jan. to Dec.)	162.50	13.54
1995		
1st Quarter		
(Jan. to March)	31.80	10.60
2nd Quarter		
(Apr. to June)	62.33	20.77
3rd Quarter		
(July to Sept.)	47.50	15.83
Jan to Sept.	141.63	15.73

It may be observed that the average monthly off-take of rice for PDS in Jammu & Kashmir has been more or less at the same level. In the 2nd

Quarter of the current year, there was a sharp increase in off-take. However in the 3rd Quarter the average off-take per month has been higher than the monthly average off-take during the last two years.

(b) No complaint regarding the quality of rice being distributed under PDS in Kashmir has been received by the Government during last one year. However, there is a marked preference for the common variety of rice i.e., IR-8 in the valley region of Jammu & Kashmir. Food Corporation of India has been arranging supplies of IR-8 variety of rice from Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to the valley region.

Special Scheme for the Development of Hill Districts in U.P.

*217 SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up some special scheme for the development of all the eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of these special schemes and the funds earmarked for implementing the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA): (a) and (b) A Sub-Plan is being implemented since 1974-75 to hasten the integrated development of eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh. This Sub-Plan is being funded partly from Special Central Assistance (which is over and above central assistance being provided to the State under its State Plan) and partly from the State Plan flow. An outlay of Rs. 547.00 crores comprising Rs. 322.00 crores as flow from State Plan and Rs. 225.00 crores as Special Central Assistance has been approved for the Sub-Plan 1995-96.

Two Special schemes drawn up during 1995-96 for the development of eight hill districts of Uttar Pradesh over and above the Sub-Plan, relate to improvement of irrigation facilities and prevention and control of forest fire. Additional Central Assistance sanctioned during 1995-96 for these schemes are Rs. 10 crore and Rs. 4.125 crore respectively.

कोयले के और अधिक उत्पादन के लिए नयी योजना

*218 **श्री गोविन्दराम मिरी:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने कोयले का उत्पादन बढ़ाने हेतु कर्मचारियों / श्रमिकों को प्रेरित करने हेतु एक नई योजना शुरू करने का निर्णय किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस योजना की मुख्य विशेषताएं क्या हैं; और

(ग) इस मामले में अंतिम निर्णय कब तक लिए जाने की संभावना है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री जगदीश टाइटलर): (क) से (ग) कोयले के उत्पादन में वृद्धि किए जाने के लिए कोल इंडिया लि॰ के कर्मचारियों को प्रेरित करने हेतु किसी नई योजना को शुरू करने का निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

Withdrawal of Pension Scheme for P.F. Subscribers

*219 SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Willl the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he threatened to withdraw the recently announced pension scheme for 18 million Provident Fund subscribers in the non-Government sector during the Tripartite Indian Labour Conference session on 23rd November, 1995 as per report published in the Hindustan Times, dated 24th November, 1995;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for withdrawal thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that some trade unions like CITU are demanding for